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Our Case No. 8285/238

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)

Maropis et al.)

Serial No. 09/417,266)

Filing Date: October 12, 1999)

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR)
PROVIDING PRE-PAID LOCAL)
TELEPHONE SERVICES)

Examiner R. Foster

Group Art Unit No. 2645

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Technology Center 2600

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 4, 2001, please enter the following amendment, and consider the following remarks:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 8 and 14 to read as follows:

Sub
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ai

8. (Amended) In communication with a telephone network having at least one local exchange carrier in communication with at least one subscriber, a system for providing prepaid local telephone services comprising:

a prepaid local telephone call service center in communication with the at least one local exchange carrier, the prepaid local telephone service call service center comprising:

an applications server having a processor and a subscriber database, the subscriber database comprising subscriber service period information and subscriber identification information, the applications server further comprising means for